



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
36th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Croatia

Geneva, 10 November 2020

Madame President,

Slovenia wishes to thank the distinguished delegation of Croatia for the commitment to the UPR and their presentations today.

We would like to recommend to the Government of Croatia:

- to review the current legal framework regarding the representation of minorities in the Parliament in order to guarantee that their interests are fully represented;
- to ensure that constitutionally recognized rights of the Slovenian autochthonous minority in Croatia are secured and implemented to a full extent, especially with regard to their right to be educated in their mother tongue;
- to provide and enhance a specialized training for staff involved in ensuring comprehensive protection for women and children as victims of violence.

Slovenia commends Croatia's commitment to the promotion of human rights and its support for the international human rights mechanisms.

We welcome the positive developments in approving legislation and adopting strategic documents to fight gender-based and domestic violence as well as to combat poverty and social exclusion.

However, concerns remain about the high prevalence of domestic violence as a dominant form of gender-based violence as well as the underreporting of such crimes and lack of reception places for women and children fleeing violence.

My delegation would also like to address the rights of the constitutionally recognized Slovenian minority in Croatia.

For years, Slovenian autochthonous minority has been facing negative consequences of the poor implementation of their rights in practice. This is particularly true for their right to use their language and script.

We are increasingly concerned about the inaction of the local authorities regarding the promotion and protection of the language and culture of the Slovenian minority in Croatia.

Thank you.